

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. Status of the Claims**

Claim 1 has been amended to better conform to U.S. practice.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-7 are pending.

**II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,152,096 to Murakami et al. ("Murakami") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,362,548 to Bingle et al. ("Bingle"). Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention is patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 1 recites a system for closing a suction muffler of a hermetic compressor comprising "a gasket of injected material, which project outwardly from the throughbores so as to define an axial lock." Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, alone or in combination, do not suggest or teach at least this feature of the presently claimed invention.

Murakami describes a pump body having a front and back casing. The front and back casings are secured together with bolts 49 and nuts 50, and the pump body includes a packing 48 that provides a seal between the front and back casings. The Examiner concedes that Murakami

does not describe an injected gasket that defines an axial lock portion, and attempts to cure this deficiency with Bingle. In asserting that Bingle discloses “an axial lock portion”, the Examiner cites reference indicator 118 in Fig. 11. Enlarged ends 118 serve the same purpose as prongs 116, both of which are features of dampener 100 that allow the dampener 100 to be “mechanically locked or anchored to base 24.” *See* Bingle, col. 8, lines 18-25.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention recites a system for closing a suction muffler of a hermetic compressor comprising “a gasket of injected materials, which projects outwardly from the throughbores so as to define an axial lock,” as recited in independent claim 1. As described in the specification, the gasket, for example, performs the dual function of providing a seal and securing the hollow base 10 to the cover 20. *See* U.S. Publication No. 2006/0118358, ¶¶ [0030] and [0035]. The enlarged ends 118 of Bingle do not provide an “axial lock” securing two locking members together as in the presently claimed invention, but are merely features of the dampener 100 that secures the dampener 100 to the base 24.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not obvious in view of the cited references, and request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

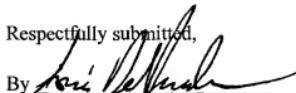
Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7 are not obvious in view of the cited references, and request that the rejection of claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: September 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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